EC-16 SNOW ACCUMULATION MANAGEMENT

BMP Objectives

- ☒ **Perimeter Control**
- ☐ **Slope Protection**
- ☐ **Borrow and Stockpiles**
- ☒ **Drainage Areas**
- ☐ **Sediment Trapping**
- ☐ **Stream Protection**
- ☐ **Temporary Stabilizing**
- ☐ **Permanent Stabilizing**

Definition and Purpose

At construction sites, snow can accumulate on disturbed areas and in drainages prior to cover being established. This BMP involves the installation of snow barriers to reduce the amount of erosion on disturbed areas. Temporary snow barriers are most commonly constructed from synthetic materials; however, boards, hay bales, rocks, and other similar materials can be used as well.

Appropriate Applications

In areas where snow drifts of 5 to 10 feet in depth occur, snow fences can be installed to prevent snow from accumulating on sensitive areas. This practice will minimize erosive snowmelt runoff and ice blockages. Snow fencing can be used in conjunction with EC-2 (Preservation of Existing/Natural Vegetation) and EC-14 (Wind Erosion Control).

Limitations

Snow fences are difficult to install on steep slopes and rocky surfaces. Snow fences may not be cost effective when large areas need to be protected from snow accumulation. Removal at the end of the project is manpower intensive.

Design Parameters

- Snow barriers shall be installed adjacent to disturbed areas, perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction, and upwind of disturbance area.
- Fences in moderate snow areas should be 4 to 6 feet in height. Two or more parallel rows of snow fence may be used in areas of heavy snow accumulations.
- Synthetic fence density (the ratio of the solid area to the area of the fence) should be between 40 and 60 percent.
- Fences should be placed, if practical, at a distance of 15 to 20 times the fence height from the area to be protected.

Maintenance and Inspection

- Conduct inspections as required by the NPDES permit or contract specifications.
- Remove snow barriers when the areas to be protected have been stabilized.